



Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats

Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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REP. THOMPSON'S CALLS FOR STRONGER PORT SECURITY IN REMARKS TO AFL-CIO

Las Vegas, NV—Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee, addressed the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department at the union's conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"Let me take the opportunity to thank the maritime unions for their efforts to inform Congress on the Administration failure to address port security gaps. The dedication you have shown to ensuring that maritime transportation system is secure once again proves that America's working men and women have a deep love for our great country," said Congressman Thompson.

In his remarks, Congressman Thompson highlighted the Committee's port security agenda. The committee will focus on container security and the Transportation Security Administration's Transportation Workers Identification Card (TWIC), he said. Congressman Thompson is particularly concerned about the potential negative impact that the TWIC background checks will have on maritime workers.

"I am very troubled with the background check requirement for the Transportation Workers Identification Card or TWIC. I want to let you know that I and other Members on the Committee will stand with you to ensure that the TWIC background check does not unfairly punish workers. I want to make clear that you have an ally that will fight to ensure that the waiver and adjudication process for TWIC cards is independent and fair."

"As a Member of Congress who represents a state with coastal and river ports, I understand your important role in protecting our ports from terrorism and look forward to working with you to make our country safer." said Thompson.
